

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1003

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Recognizing the efforts of United States Senator Tim Johnson, United States Senator John Thune, United States Representative Stephanie Herseth, Governor M. Michael Rounds and the preparedness of the Rapid City area's Ellsworth Task Force and the Black Hills area's government and business leaders for their outstanding achievement in retaining Ellsworth Air Force Base as a vital component of our nation's defenses.

WHEREAS, the demonstrated leadership of Senator Tim Johnson, Senator John Thune, Representative Stephanie Herseth, Governor M. Michael Rounds and local leaders was instrumental in the retention of Ellsworth Air Force Base as a vital component of not only our nation's defenses but the economic and social fabric of western South Dakota's Black Hills; and

WHEREAS, the value of Ellsworth's geographically centered location and its capabilities as demonstrated by its assigned missions and personnel over decades of conflicts extending throughout World War II, an enduring cold war spanning over forty-five years, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, other armed conflicts in southwest Asia, the NATO liberation of Kosovo, and most recently in our nation's continuing global war on terror in the Afghanistan and Iraq theaters of operation; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota's congressional delegation and state and local leaders have been instrumental in the transformation of the base's facilities and aircraft into a fully trained and capable twenty-first century strike capability, able to launch B-1B aircraft from Ellsworth to any worldwide location and directly engage the enemy with the most advanced precision weapons using unprecedented timing and accuracy; and

WHEREAS, the entire state of South Dakota was focused on their actions and the results of their efforts to retain Ellsworth Air Force Base throughout the summer of 2005 and watched with the greatest levels of concern and apprehension as the Base Closure and Realignment Commission voted 8 to 1 to retain Ellsworth; and

WHEREAS, their untiring efforts, unified support and dedication to work with the Base Closure and Realignment Commission commissioners and their distinctive presence during the commission's final deliberations brought very highly regarded national attention to the true spirit and character of

the People of South Dakota:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Eighty-first Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that their efforts be recognized as a significant milestone in support of our nation's defense mission and a benchmark of success deserving emulation throughout the future of the State of South Dakota.

Adopted by the House of Representatives,
Concurred in by the Senate,

January 30, 2006
February 01, 2006

Matthew Michels
Speaker of the House

Karen Gerdes
Chief Clerk of the House

Dennis Daugaard
President of the Senate

Patricia Adam
Secretary of the Senate